



*Scholarship. Citizenship. Leadership.*

For Immediate Release  
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**Hononegah Board of Education Recognizes Teachers  
For Earning the Excellence in Education Grants**

The Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation (IRTAF) awards nearly \$36,500 in grant money to several public school educators (Pre-K through 12) statewide. IRTAF is affiliated with the Illinois Retired Teachers Association, a lobbying group for retired educators, with a current membership of over 38,000. On October 10, 2018, Anita Bond was awarded her IRTAF grant check. Below, you will find a summarized paragraph of the project.

**Brian Zimmerman, Hononegah Community High School, Rockton (\$500.00) Area 1**

Students with impaired vision or students that have difficulty using a traditional microscope will find it easier and acquire the same skills by utilizing a Digital microscope with an attached 3.5" LCD screen (about the size of a cell phone screen). In my department (Science), we frequently encounter students that have struggled to properly view microscopic organisms/objects within the microscope lab activity and they lose interest very quickly and become frustrated. Some have a fear of putting their eye that close to the ocular lens due to glasses or contacts. By utilizing 3 digital microscopes with screens, students will be able to manipulate the objective lenses and dial in the course and fine adjustment to properly view micro-organisms and they, their classmates, and instructors will be able to see that they have accomplished this task to view the intended object or organism.

The IRTA Foundation designed this program based on the idea that educators often do not have additional revenue sources available for unique student projects or classroom materials. This program allotted a total of \$36,500 to Illinois public school educators for these purposes.

Applicants were required to meet the proper criteria and to submit their proposals by early June. The IRTAF Board of Directors selected the grant recipients and awards are being presented now. The Illinois Principals Association played a vital role in assisting IRTAF with the promotion of this program.



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Contact: Dr. Kim Suedbeck, Assistant Superintendent, 815-624-5014

**About Hononegah Community High School District**

Hononegah is a public school district in Rockton, Illinois, located between Rockford and the southern border of Wisconsin. The District serves over 2,100 students from the towns of Rockton, Roscoe, Shirland, and parts of South Beloit. The District provides an inspiring and challenging educational experience that promotes reflective critical thinking, civic engagement, and personal development.